Minutes of York County Homeowner Associations Meeting October 11, 2017, 6:30 p.m. Senior Center of York

In Attendance:

Breezy Point, Edgehill, Endview Woods, Glen Laurel, Herons Walk, Kiln Creek, Kings Villa, Magruder Woods, Marlbank Cove, McDonald Bluffs, Middletowne Farms, Olde Port Cove, Rainbrook Villas, Running Man

Opening remarks and presentation by York County Administrator Neil Morgan:

Mr. Morgan welcomed those in attendance and recognized Board of Supervisors Chairman Sheila Knoll and staff members present (Mark Carter, Vivian McGettigan, Brian Woodward, Paula Hersh, Lynne McMullen, and Kelly Thomas). He presented an overview of the local economy and York County's budget outlook. Current and future CIP projects were discussed with a focus on the County's upcoming transition to a modernized financial accounting system.

Presentation by Department of Public Works Deputy Director Brian Woodward:

Mr. Woodward outlined the many areas that Public Works is responsible for in the County, including Engineering, Waste Management, Mosquito Control, Stormwater, Grounds Maintenance, Fleet Maintenance and Facility Maintenance. His slideshow presentation touched on these areas of responsibility and he provided historical context. A copy of his slideshow is attached here.

Presentation by VDOT Williamsburg Residency Administrator Rossie Carroll:

Mr. Carroll explained how citizens can report road problems to VDOT via their online portal or by calling the Williamsburg Residency Office. He reminded attendees to use VDOT's 511 Traffic Information System to monitor real-time traffic conditions. Mr. Carroll summarized the services that VDOT offers the County and provided updates on various projects, including 1-64 Widening. A copy of his slideshow presentation is available here.

Question and Answer Session:

 Our neighborhood is right off of Yorktown Road and we're concerned about the offflow of traffic at Yorktown Road and Rt. 143 (Jefferson Avenue) by people trying to avoid the construction associated with Segment 2 of the I-64 Widening project.
 When will Segments 1 and 2 be completed and do you anticipate an increase in traffic off-flow at this pinch point?

(Mr. Carroll) Segment 1 will be completed by December of this year. Segment 2 is already under construction and will be completed in 2 years.

(Mr. Morgan) There will be some people who get off the interstate to run along Rt. 143 to avoid the construction but that is unavoidable. Another option for those motorists will be to use the improved Ft. Eustis Boulevard exit which will be completed.

• How many miles are covered by Segments 1, 2 and 3 of the I-64 Widening project?

(Mr. Carroll) 6, 7, and 8 so about 20 miles.

And how many miles is it from the end point of Segment 3 to the end point of the Richmond extension in our direction?

(Mr. Morgan) 27 miles that there are currently no plans for.

Can you quickly assume that it's going to be almost twice the cost?

(Mr. Carroll) No, because there aren't as many bridges which is one of the higher cost items. It's hard to say, but the longer you put it out, the more it will cost.

(Mr. Morgan) It's in our York County legislative priorities and our Board members will be meeting with all of our legislators. As a region, we have to come up with a plan to fill that gap between Bottoms Bridge and upper Rt. 199. At some level, it comes down to money, but even if you had the money it would take ten years so you have to get started at some point.

(Mr. Carroll) And keep in mind, that section falls out of HRTAC (Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission) so you can't use those funds, you'd have to go back to the State.

Do you have a diagram of the Penniman/Government Road project?

(Mr. Carroll) I have a plan, but it's early on so it's not a plan that I'm going to construction with. We're looking at straightening where Government Road and Penniman Road come together into a T intersection as well as improvements to the pedestrian facilities and things of that nature.

Is there anything planned for the section from Rt. 143 along Government Road up to that intersection?

(Mr. Carroll) No, this project only addresses the area where Government Road and Penniman Road come together.

 Heading west or north on Rt. 17 from Magruder coming down to where the bridge goes over the Poquoson River, the travel lane seems to be out of alignment with the bridge. A lot of people get over to avoid that lane. Is there anything that can be done to correct that?

(Mr. Carroll) No, it's not an easy fix. You would have to go back much further with grade changes to bring that into a better alignment with the bridge. We looked at that during construction and were hoping for a better result, but with the grade and drainage there we have that dip on each side of the approach. When we measured how far back we would have to go and change all the curbs, grades and drainage, the decision was made at that time that we just couldn't do it.

• It was announced the other day that between Woodbridge and Fredericksburg is the most used rural roadway (I-95), north and south, in the country. Will that change any of the priorities for I-64 in the near future?

(Mr. Carroll) There is a section of I-95 that is being addressed as well; they are looking at putting in express lanes and HOV lanes. It's in a different region and they have received some federal grant money for the project so it won't affect plans for I-64.

Is the widening of Victory Boulevard still on the agenda?

(Mr. Carroll) Yes, it will be widened to 6 lanes from Rt.17 to Rt. 134. It is at the end of the 2018 six-year plan so it should be done by 2025.

The intersection of Big Bethel Road and Victory Boulevard has become a real problem; there is no left-turn lane and the right-turn lane has been blocked off at the fire station so if you are in the queue to get on Victory Boulevard by Tabb High School, you have one lane going right, left and in between. It makes it much harder to get out of that area.

(Mr. Carroll) I'm not sure why that lane has been blocked off so I'm going to have to look into that.

• I put in a request a couple of months ago for a street sweeping and haven't gotten any response. How often do you do street sweeping and who should I contact to follow up on my request?

(Mr. Carroll) We usually do it in March, right after our snow season and then look at it case-by-case after that. We do a lot of contracting for street sweeping so we try to group areas together and get a lot of lane miles swept at the same time. If you've submitted a request it's in our system. Normally, they go to the area headquarters, which would be Seaford in this case, and they plan out the work.

Exactly when is Yorktown Day?

(Mr. Morgan) October 19, next Thursday.

What do you have to do to get a streetlight?

(Mr. Carter) The County has certain standards for streetlights that we will take over the responsibility to pay the electric charges on. If you want a streetlight at an intersection, that's a pretty easy decision. If you want it placed between intersections, we have certain spacing standards. For individual requests, what normally has to happen is somebody needs to pay five years' worth of electric charges up front and the installation cost for the streetlight and then the County will take on the electric charges beyond five years. There have been a few instances where the County has footed the whole bill for a documented safety issue at a heavily traveled intersection. So let us know what you're looking for and we will do some research and provide you with options.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:51 p.m.